

EDWARD BENTON OF GUILFORD (CONN.) AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

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1. EDWARD¹ BENTON was one of the early settlers of Guilford, though not a signer of the Plantation Covenant. He came possibly from Wethersfield or Milford, and was in the town as early as 1648; the oath of a free-man was given him, May 19, 1651. This shows that he was a church member. His home-lot was on the west side of the Green, and contained two acres. Other parcels of land owned by him amounted to sixty-three acres. He never bore any considerable public office, and was not entitled to the prefix "Mr." He was a brother of Andrew Benton of Milford and Kartford, who died July 31, 1683, aged 63, and who had a large family by his wife Hannah Stocking. Edward Benton married Anne, who was buried Aug. 22, 1671. He died Oct. 28, 1680. In 1672 his list was £72. 1s. His will, made Mch. 7, 1675/6, is of interest. It states that "as the holy Providence of God hath left the burden of a crippled child upon my hand to be cared and provided for, who may live and be burdensome after my decease, Zacheus Benton by name and that affliction is an interruption to the more equal distribution of my small estate amongst all my children, I do, therefore, give only the sum of 5 shillings apiece unto my five children" (not including Zacheus or Andrew) and to "my son Zacheus Benton, I give a colt, which he shall choose. Item, I give to my son Daniel's widow a cow." "Lastly all the rest of my estate ** I give unto my son Andrew Benton, upon condition that he shall duly attend and provide for his brother Zacheus Benton, during the term of his natural life with all necessities of food and rayment, washing and lodging, suitable for him." Andrew is also made executor.

The children of Edward and Anne Benton were :

2. i. EDWARD,² b. 1636; d. Feb. 19, 1697-8.
 - ii. DANIEL, b. 1638; d. June 9, 1672.
 - iii. ANDREW, b. 1639; d. Jan. 13, 1714.
 - iv. HANNAH, b. Sept. 28, 1640; m. Robert (?) Accerly or Akerly.
 - v. MARY, b. Feb. 2, 1641-2; m. Dec. 6, 1666, Samuel Tharp of New Haven and Wallingford, who d. Feb. 2, 1728, æ. 84. She d. March 1, 1718.
 - vi. JOHN, b. June 10, 1643; d. before his father.
 - vii. TABITHA, b. 1646; m. Nov. 27, 1684, Simon Simpson of New Haven.
 - viii. ELIZABETH, b. June 3, 1647; buried April 3, 1654.
 - ix. SARAH, b. Nov. 4, 1650; d. Dec. 25, 1692; m. Thomas Wright, Dec. 9, 1673. He d. Dec. 6, 1692.
 - x. ZACHEUS, b. Aug. 27, 1652; d. single.
2. EDWARD² BENTON, JR. (*Edward¹*), of Glastenbury, Conn., m. Mary, who d. Aug. 8, 1702, æ. 60.

Their children were :

5. i. SAMUEL,³ b. ———; d. 1752.
- ii. MARY.
- iii. REBECCA, b. ———; m. Isaac Boreman, Jr., of Wethersfield, Dec. 7, 1699. He d. May 9, 1719, æ. 52.
- iv. ELLINOR, b. 1670; m. David Wright, son of James of Glastenbury, Aug. 21, 1705, and d. 1749. He d. June 8, 1764.
- v. DOROTHY.
- vi. DANIEL, d. young, 1682.
6. vii. EDWARD, b. ———; d. Apr. 29, 1713.

3. DANIEL² BENTON (*Edward*¹), of Guilford, m. Rachel Guttridge or Goodrich, dau. Richard of Guilford, Dec. 23, 1658. She died Oct. 1685. His list in 1672 was £41. 13. Their home-lot in 1669 was one of two and a half acres on the north side of the Green, and was sold by their descendant, Lot Benton, in 1829, to the First Congregational Church, as a site for church and parsonage.

Their children were :

- i. JOANNA,³ b. Oct. 8, 1660; d. Dec. 29, 1692; m. John Turner, Dec. 16, 1686.
 7. ii. EBENEZER, b. 1663; d. Jan. 23, 1758.
 - iii. BETHYA, b. 1665; m. ——— Sanford.
 - iv. REBECCA, b. Sept. 14, 1671; m. Joseph Halsey.
4. ANDREW² BENTON (*Edward*¹), of Guilford; m. Feb. 4, 1664, Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas Relf. She d. Oct. 27, 1713. He had a home-lot granted him by the town, containing one and three-fourth acres, "bounded by the crossways east by Samuel Hughes Westerly by the two streets Northerly and Southerly" and inherited from his father, the home-lot on which the latter spent his last days, on Crooked Lane, now State street, containing three acres, with another piece adjoining, in all eight acres. This property is still held by his descendants. His list was £55. in 1672.

His children were :

8. i. JAMES,³ b. Dec. 1, 1665; d. Nov. 7, 1733.
 - ii. JOSEPH, b. Feb. 4, 1668-9; buried Jan. 4, 1669-70.
 9. iii. JOHN, b. April 17, 1672; d. June 17, 1718.
 - iv. ANDREW, b. 1674; d. single in 1714.
 - v. ELIZABETH, b. June 4, 1677; d. June 30, 1734; m. Samuel Evarts of Guilford, March 1, 1710. He d. Jan. 14, 1740.
 10. vi. JABEZ, b. Apr. 28, 1680; d. July 21, 1756.
 - vii. EXPERIENCE; m. John Turner, Jr.
5. SAMUEL² BENTON (*Edward*¹, *Edward*¹), of Glastenbury; m. Mary, dau. Samuel Bradfield, Feb. 1, 1705. She d. Dec. 6, 1747.

Their children were :

- i. SARAH,³ b. March 19, 1707.
 - ii. HANNAH, b. July 1, 1710.
 - iii. NATHANIEL, b. Mch. 8, 1714; d. aged nine days.
 - iv. JONATHAN, b. Oct. 13, 1715; m. 1st, Hannah Beckley, May 6, 1742. She d. Jan. 18, 1750, æ. 40. Their children were: 1. *Lydia*,⁴ b. Feb. 1, 1743. 2. *Samuel*, b. Sept. 4, 1745. 3. *Jonathan*, b. March 18, 1748. He m. 2d, Deborah Williams, Aug. 24, 1750. She d. Nov. 12, 1784.
 - v. NATHANIEL, b. April 9, 1718; m. Dorothy Cook, Oct. 13, 1745. He d. Dec. 3, 1753. Their children were: 1. *John*,⁴ b. March 18, 1746. 2. *Mary*, b. March 30, 1751.
 - vi. ABIGAIL, b. Nov. 4, 1720.
6. EDWARD³ BENTON (*Edward*², *Edward*¹), of Glastenbury; m. Mary, dau. Samuel Hale, Oct. 16, 1702.

Their children were :

- i. JOSIAH,⁴ b. 1705.
 - ii. EPHRAIM, b. 1707.
 - iii. MARY, b. 1710.
7. ENSIGN EBENEZER³ BENTON of Guilford, spent his last part of his life in the part of the town known as Burchen Swamp. He is put down in 1690 as having served in the Indian wars. His list was £131 9. 6. in 1716. He resigned his position as ensign on Oct. 12, 1727, because

"old and infirm," (Conn. Col. Recs.) yet lived twenty-one years longer, dying at the age of ninety-five. He was a wheelwright. He married Abigail, dau. of John Graves, June 14, 1694. She d. April 13, 1753.

Their children were:

- I. DANIEL,* b. June 1, 1695; d. Aug. 5, 1756; lived in Guilford and was Deacon in the Fourth Congregational Church there. He m. 1st, Elizabeth, dau. of John Norton, Aug. 8, 1728; she d. Sept. 21, 1753; 2d, Sarah, dau. of Samuel Camp and widow of Thomas Seward, who d. March 12, 1762. His children were all by his first wife. They were: 1. *Sarah*,* b. April 28, 1729; d. single Oct. 18, 1806. 2. *Daniel*, b. Dec. 12, 1730; d. May 15, 1746. 3. *Samuel*, b. Dec. 19, 1732; d. Aug. 14, 1807. 4. *Eber*, b. Feb. 12, 1734; d. single July 10, 1804. 5. *Jared*, b. June 15, 1737; d. May 23, 1802; m. Elizabeth Collins, dau. of Oliver of Guilford, June 25, 1786; she died Oct. 18, 1838. 6. *Silas*, b. July 25, 1739; d. May 19, 1828; m. 1st, Abigail Linsley, dau. of Dan of Branford, June 6, 1768; she d. Feb. 24, 1811, aged 68; 2d, Lois, widow Samuel Plant, Dec. 16, 1811; she d. Feb. 22, 1827, aged 78. 7. *Nathan*, b. July 5, 1741; d. Oct. 31, 1821; m. Rachel, dau. Joseph Chittenden, May 8, 1794; she d. Feb. 4, 1815. They had no children. 8. *Ann*, b. Aug. 29, 1743; m. Phillip Mann, April 11, 1764. 9. *Elizabeth*, b. Dec. 20, 1745; m. Rufus Graves, Nov. 7, 1773. 10. *Daniel*, b. June 18, 1748; d. Dec. 11, 1754. 11. *Infant*, b. Sept. 1753; d. Sept. 20, 1753.
- II. ELIZABETH, b. June 22, 1697; d. May 14, 1748; m. Samuel Buel, Jan. 26, 1737; he d. at Killingworth Nov. 8, 1750.
- III. EBENEZER, b. June 12, 1700; d. Feb. 11, 1776; lived in North Guilford and m. Nov. 3, 1725, Esther Crattenden, who d. April 24, 1778. Their children were: 1. *Nathaniel*,* b. Aug. 12, 1726, resided in Litchfield in 1784. 2. *Ebenezer*, b. April 29, 1728, lived in Litchfield South Farms. 3. *Stephen*, b. Feb. 14, 1731, lived at Navesink, N. Y., m. Feb. 17, 1761, widow Hannah Camp of Durham. 4. *Timothy*, b. Dec. 15, 1732; d. Nov. 27, 1807; lived in North Guilford and m. 1st, Rachel Fowler, Dec. 1, 1764; she d. July 9, 1784; 2d, Desire, widow John Stevens, Jan. 12, 1785; she d. Aug. 13, 1824, having married as third husband Deacon Joel Rose. 5. *Bela*, b. Oct. 19, 1734; d. Nov. 13, 1753. 6. *Josiah*, b. July 1, 1736, lived in Goshen, Conn. 7. *Lot*, b. Jan. 17, 1739; d. Sept. 4, 1814; m. 1st, Catharine Lyman of Middletown, Oct. 11, 1764; she d. July 2, 1799; 2d, Anna Talcott of Durham, Jan. 13, 1800; she d. Oct. 24, 1804; 3d, Elizabeth, widow of his cousin, Jared Benton, Oct. 2, 1805; she d. Oct. 18, 1838. He had no children. In the early part of his life he lived in North Guilford, but the last portion of his life was spent in Guilford on the Green, where the First or North Congregational Church now stands. The well of his house still exists in the church cellar. His house was removed when the church was built, and still stands near the Sluice on Whitfield St. Having no children, he adopted the famous Lyman Beecher, a nephew of his first wife, brought him up and had him educated for the ministry. 8. *Ruth*, b. Feb. 2, 1742; d. April 10, 1813; m. June 1, 1767, James Thompson of Goshen, who d. Nov. 8, 1817, aged 76. 9. *Rachel*, b. Jan. 26, 1743; m. James Coe of Granville, Jan. 21, 1767.
- IV. ABIGAIL,* b. Dec. 20, 1702; d. April 27, 1785; m. Ebenezer Cruttenden, March 10, 1740. He d. March 18, 1748.
- V. CALEB, b. July 25, 1706; d. Nov. 27, 1782; lived in Guilford and m. 1st, Sept. 28, 1740, Sarah Stone, who d. Feb. 17, 1746. Their children were: 1. *Caleb*,* b. April 17, 1742, removed to Amenla, N. Y., 1794, and d. Dec. 25, 1831; he m. Sarah Bishop, Jan. 29, 1767, who d. April 16, 1825. 2. *Phineas*, b. Aug. 30, 1744; d. Sept. 9, 1744. 3. *Beriah*, b. Feb. 1, 1746; d. Feb. 2, 1746. He m. 2d, Thankful Chittenden, Oct. 13, 1751; she d. Jan. 2, 1757. Their